

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2608

ANSWERED ON:16.03.2007

EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN RURAL AREAS

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the benefits of the growth are not reaching to all the citizens;
- (b) whether poverty and unemployment in the country has not reduced as per target of the Government;
- (c) whether growth in rural employment has reached stagnation point;
- (d) whether per capita consumption of foodgrain has decreased due to this;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether according to the report of National Sample Survey Organisation 25 crore citizens in the country subsist on Rs. 12 per day only;
- (g) if so, the present position in this regard; and
- (h) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for increasing sufficient employment in rural areas ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL)

(a) to (g) The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at national and state level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). On the basis of consumer expenditure data of 61st Round of the National Sample Survey as reported in the Approach to the Eleventh Plan, the poverty ratio in 2004-05 at the national level has been estimated as 27.8 percent using Uniform Recall Period and this is incomparable to the poverty estimates of 36 percent estimated for 1993-94. Growth in employment on Current Daily Status basis in rural areas has been estimated at 2.01% per annum during 1999-2000 to 2004-05. As regard to employment opportunities in rural areas of the country, it had increased from 251.15 million in 1999-2000 to 277.46 million in 2004-05. As per the National Sample Survey 61st round, the per capita consumption expenditure of 29.13% of the rural population and 7.13% of the urban population in the country is less than Rs. 12.00 per day.

(h) For creation of wage employment, the Ministry is implementing the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and with effect from 2nd February, 2006, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in 200 selected districts of the country which aims to enhance the livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult member volunteer to do unskilled manual work. From the financial year 2007-08, this Act is to be extended to another 130 districts of the country and the SGRY in these districts will be subsumed into National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS). Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is a self-employment programme where the main approach is to organize the rural poor in Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and encourage them to take up the economic activity by providing them assistance through a mix of credit and subsidy. Besides these, the other programmes of the Ministry like Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP) also create rural employment indirectly. For the year 2007-08, an enhanced Central Budget provision of Rs.41060 crore including Rs.4500 crore EIBR for PMGSY has been proposed against budget provision of Rs.31443.62 crore for the year 2006-07 for the Ministry of Rural Development i.e. an increase of 30.6% over previous year for implementation of rural development programmes in the country.